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**University of Idaho honors retired INL deputy director**

IDAHO FALLS –Tonight, former deputy Lab Director Dr. David J. Hill receives the President’s Medallion from the University of Idaho. He will be presented the award during the 2013 commencement ceremony. The President’s Medallion is a special recognition given to select individuals who have contributed to the success to the university and the state.

Hill is being recognized for making “significant contributions to the cultural, economic, scientific and/or social advancement of Idaho and its people.” The award also acknowledges Hill’s “exceptional service to the University, state or nation that has influenced the well-being of humankind.”

During his tenure as deputy laboratory director for Science & Technology at Idaho National Laboratory, Hill helped establish and grow the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES). The collaboration between INL and Idaho's three public research universities enhanced research opportunities for Idaho students and collaboration opportunities for university scientists.

“Idaho enjoys wonderful institutions of higher learning that are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all Idahoans,” said Hill. “I’ve enjoyed my association with the University of Idaho – working together to create the unique collaborative effort at CAES, and advance the research opportunities at one of our nation’s finest land grant universities.”

Commencement ceremonies for the University of Idaho in Idaho Falls will begin at 7:30 p.m. tonight, at the Willard Performing Arts Center, with a reception immediately following.

INL is one of the DOE's 10 multiprogram national laboratories. The laboratory performs work in each of the strategic goal areas of DOE: energy, national security, science and environment. INL is the nation's leading center for nuclear energy research and development. Day-to-day management and operation of the laboratory is the responsibility of Battelle Energy Alliance.

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